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Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to betp you fill in this form)



The Patent Office

Cardiff Road Newport Gwest NP9 1RH

1. Your reference

F21560/98P4865/GB/R76/DA/rx

- 2. Patent application number
 (The Patent Office will fill in this part)
- 3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (undertine all surnames)
- Parents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

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4. Title of the invention

ACOUSTIC MARKETING DEVICE

- Name of your agent (if you have one)
 - "Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (Including the postcode)

DEREK ALLEN

SIEMENS GROUP SERVICES LIMITED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT SIEMENS HOUSE, OLDBURY BRACKNELL, BERKSHIRE, RG12 8FZ

02898443005 /

Patents ADP number (If you know it)

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number Country

Priority application number
(if you know ii)

Date of filing (day / month / year)

 If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

- Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer Yes' 1):
 - a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) ibere is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
 See note (d))

YES

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Patents Form 1/77 THE PATENT UTTION ! 9. Enter penumber of sheets for any of the follow... items you are filing with this form. Do not count copies of the same document Continuation sheets of this form Description 2 0 Claim(s) Abstract 0 1 Drawing(s) 10. If you are also filing any of the following. state how many against each item. Priority documents Translations of priority documents Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77) Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77) Any other documents (please specify) I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application. 11. Signature Date 21 December 199 Derek Allen-Their

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Derek Allen - 01344 396808

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After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be probibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to probibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, If you the in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction probibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

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ACOUSTICALLY ACTIVATED MARKETING DEVICE

The present invention relates to an acoustically activated marketing device. The consumer obtains the device from a retailer. He/she wears the badge while at the cinema or while listening to the radio or TV. When a specific advert is broadcast the badge interprets part of the sound-track and activates the display on the badge.

Masking by Other Sounds

When the advert is played, the consumer may be in an area of high noise, for example in the midst of conversation in a cinema or at home, or when driving in a car. This noise may mask the code signal and prevent the display from being activated. This should ideally not be greater than 1 non-activation out of 10 or 20 occasions.

Unintended Activation

While the consumer is wearing the badge, it will be subject to many different sources of noise, for example; conversation, music, car noise, etc. These could, by chance, contain a sequence of sounds that are sufficiently like the code to trigger the device. The probability of this type of 'false alarm' occurring can be reduced by increasing the complexity of the signal code, but this may be at the expense of battery life or badge cost. Less than 1 in 100 badges should be unintentionally activated during their lifetimes, with a maximum acceptable limited of 1 in 20.

Operating Lifetime

The required operating lifetime of the badge is expected to be application-dependent. Long operating lifetimes will require higher cost batteries or lower power circuits.

Cost Reduction

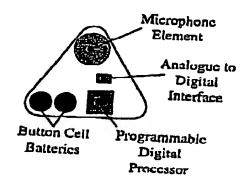
To minimise the production cost, the development of an integrated circuit specific to this application will be required. This will require low-cost packaging, for example the integrated circuit can be directly mounted on the printed circuit board and then protected from the atmosphere by a 'blob' of plastic. For this type of ASIC to be viable, large production runs will be necessary. The requirement for such runs will make it more difficult to adapt the IC to a different application. Some degree of programmability may be possible, however this may require the use of a more expensive production process.

Drawings

An example of a marketing device is shown in Fig. 1. The device comprises a low-cost display, a microphone, connected to an A/D interface, a programmable digital processor and a battery source.

Low Cost Display

Pront View



Electronics Layout

Fig 1.

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